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NAIL KEG NEST BOX

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Every rabbit breeder is interested in a nest box that provides for the comfort of the litter, is acceptable to the doe and easily cleaned and disinfected, and at the same time is inexpensive and easy to construct. Such a nest box has been developed at the United States Rabbit Experiment Station, at Fontana, Calif. (see illustration on next page).

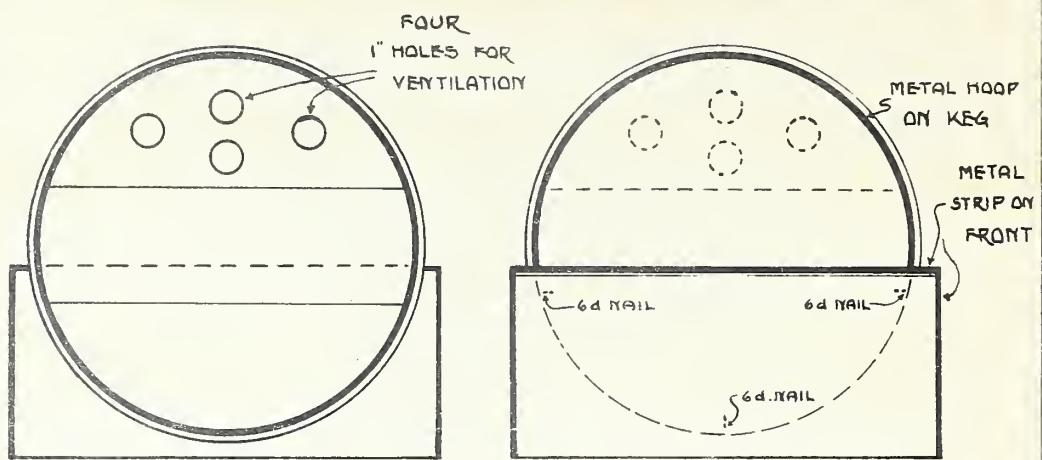
The materials required are: One 100-pound nail keg; one board 13 inches long, 6 inches wide, and 1 inch thick; a 1/4-inch box strip, or other metal strip, 24 inches long; 3 six-penny box nails; and 11 lath nails.

A nail keg with metal end hoops is best for making the nest box. One with a head diameter of 13 inches is desirable for does weighing more than 12 pounds, an 11 1/2-inch diameter for those weighing 8 to 12 pounds, and a 10-inch diameter for those weighing less than 8 pounds.

Place the 6-inch board, which should be a little longer than the diameter of the keg, along the open end of the keg (see front end view of figure). Toenail the 3 six-penny box nails under the metal hoop (side view) into the board. To protect the board from being gnawed, fasten the 1/4-inch metal strip to the top edge and the two ends with the lath nails. Bore four 1-inch holes in the upper part of the bottom head (rear view) to provide ventilation. Bore five 1/4-inch holes in the bottom of the keg nest box for drainage.

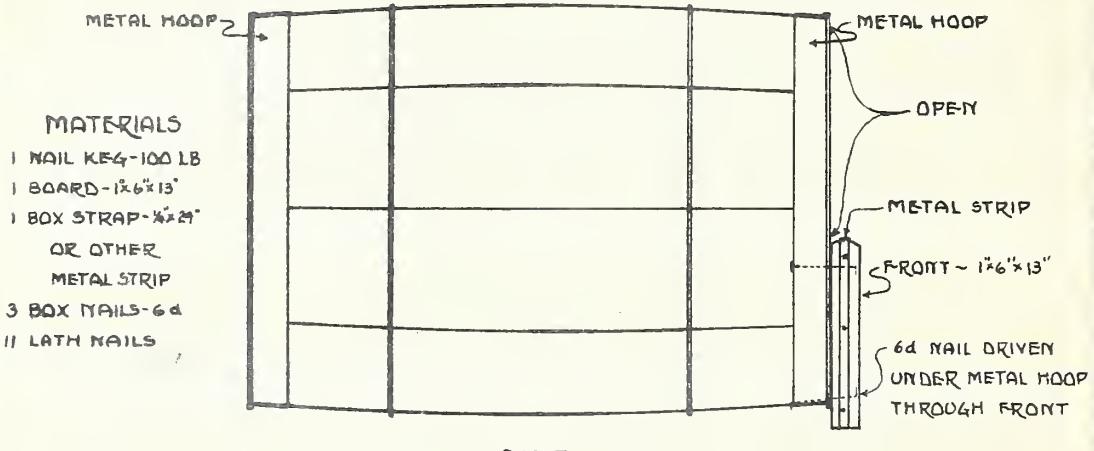
Nest boxes should be placed in the hutches 27 days after the date of mating. The nest material should be clean and absorbent. Straw is excellent for this purpose. Usually the doe will line the nest with fur, although sometimes she fails to pull enough to cover the litter. The fur is easily pulled at kindling time, and it may be well to remove enough from the dewlap, the underline, and the hip region of the doe to complete the nest.

Before being used for another kindling, nest boxes should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.



REAR END

FRONT END



SIDE

